Role of Division Mental Health in a Theater of Combat

Presented by:

1st ID Mental Health Section

Resources

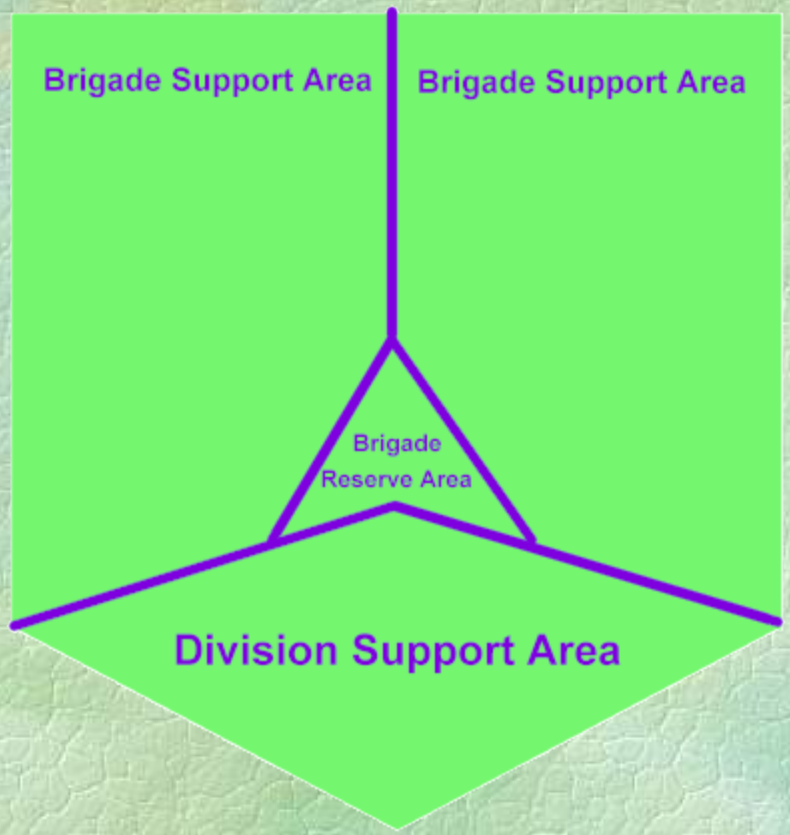
- This presentation was taken from FM 8-51, Combat Stress Control in a Theater of Operations, Chapter 2, Section 1
- The following resources may prove to be helpful:
  - *FM 22-51, Leaders' Manual for Combat Stress Control*
  - *Plan 8-55, Planning for Health Support*

Who is on the DMHS Staff?

- 1 Psychiatrist
- 1 Clinical Psychologist
- 1 Social Work Officer
- 1 Senior Mental Health NCO (91X) (E-7)
- 1 Mental Health NCO (E-6)
- 2 Mental Health Sergeants (E-5)
- 3 Mental Health Specialists (E-1 - E-4)

Division Area of Operations

- The Division Area of Operations is divided into the following areas:
  - 2 Brigade Support Areas
  - Division Support Area
  - Brigade Reserve Area



- Main Support Medical Company is represented by the symbol:

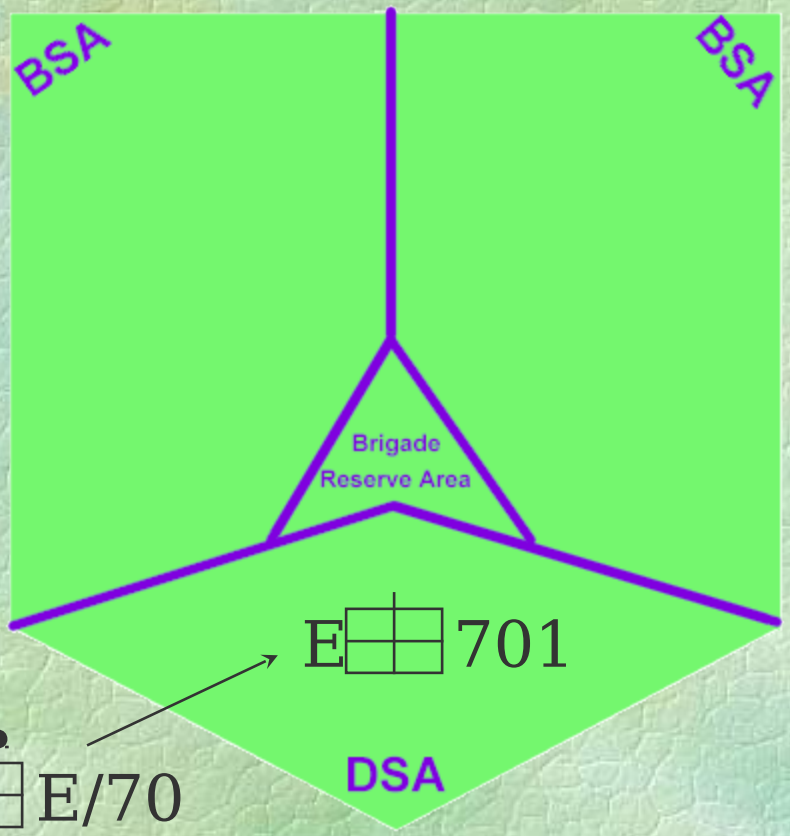
E 701

- DMHS is represented by the symbol:

M E/70
H 1

DMHS in the DAO

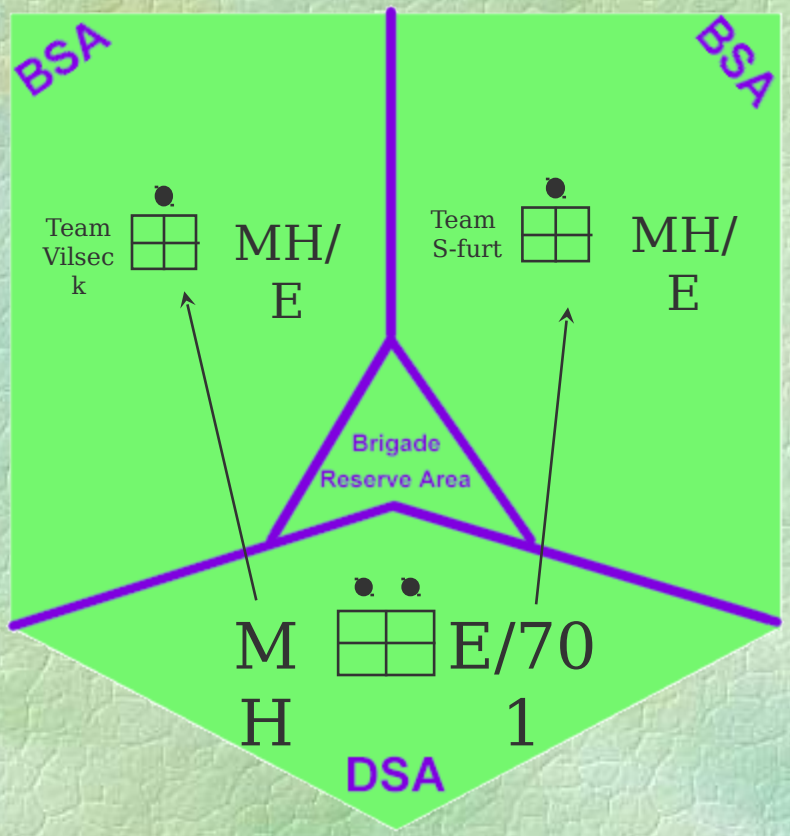
- The Main Support Medical Company (MSMC) is located in the DSA.
- The MSMC functions as the base of operations for DMHS.
- At the MSMC, DMHS establishes itself near the Area Support Squad Treatment Element (Division Clearing Station).



FM 8-51, 3-1

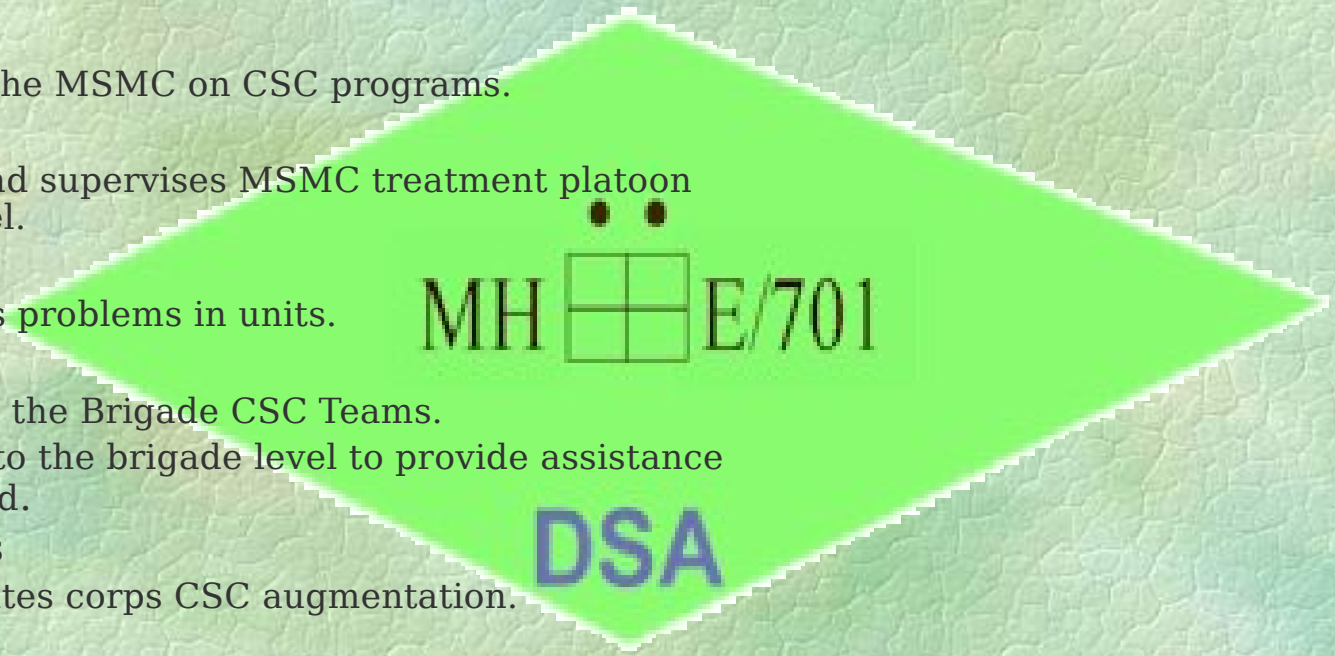
1 Brigade CSC Teams in the BSA

- DMHS has two Brigade CSC Teams, consisting of a Mental Health Officer and a Behavioral Science NCO.
- The Brigade CSC Team joins the brigade as it deploys into the BSA.
- The Brigade CSC uses the Forward Support Medical Company's clearing station as a base of operation.
- Other DMHS personnel are deployed to augment or reinforce the Brigade CSCs as needed.



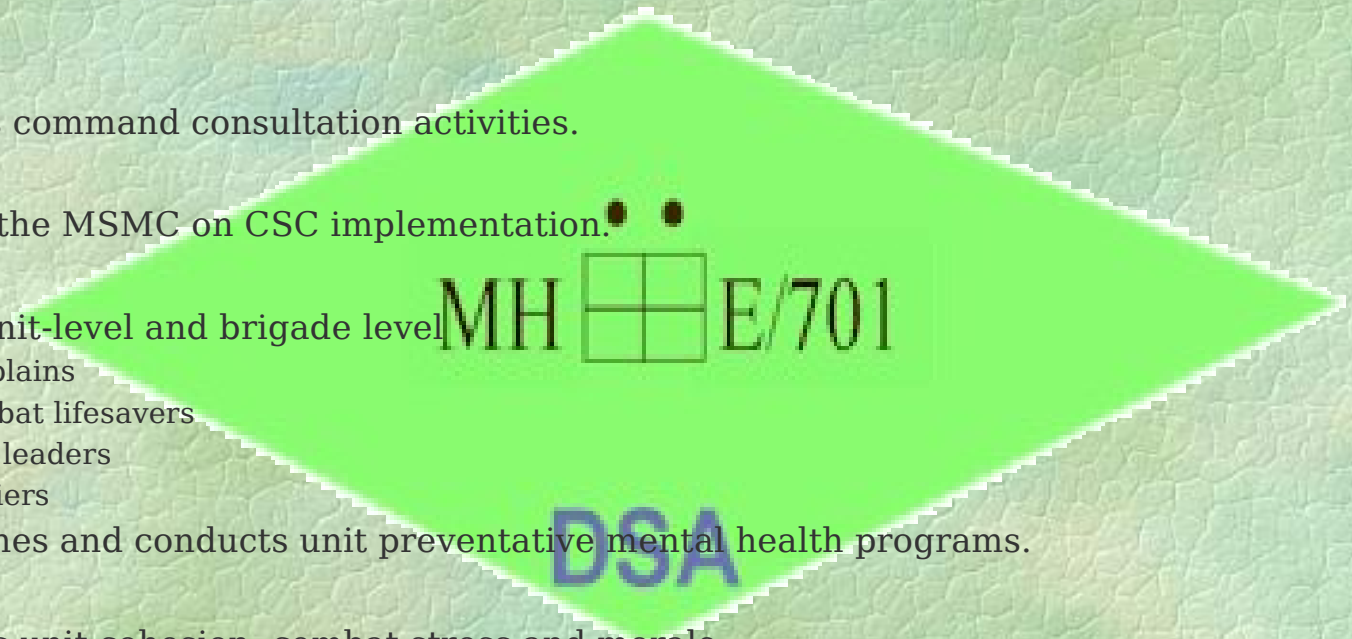
Duties of the Division Psychiatrist

- Consults
  - Visits the FSMCs for consultations.
- Treats
  - Provides 24-hour neuropsychiatric triage at the MSMC.
- Guides
  - Advises the MSMC on CSC programs.
- Trains
  - Trains and supervises MSMC treatment platoon personnel.
- Monitors
  - Identifies problems in units.
- Supervises
  - Supports the Brigade CSC Teams.
  - Deploys to the brigade level to provide assistance as needed.
- Coordinates
  - Coordinates corps CSC augmentation.



Duties of the DSA CSC Coordinator

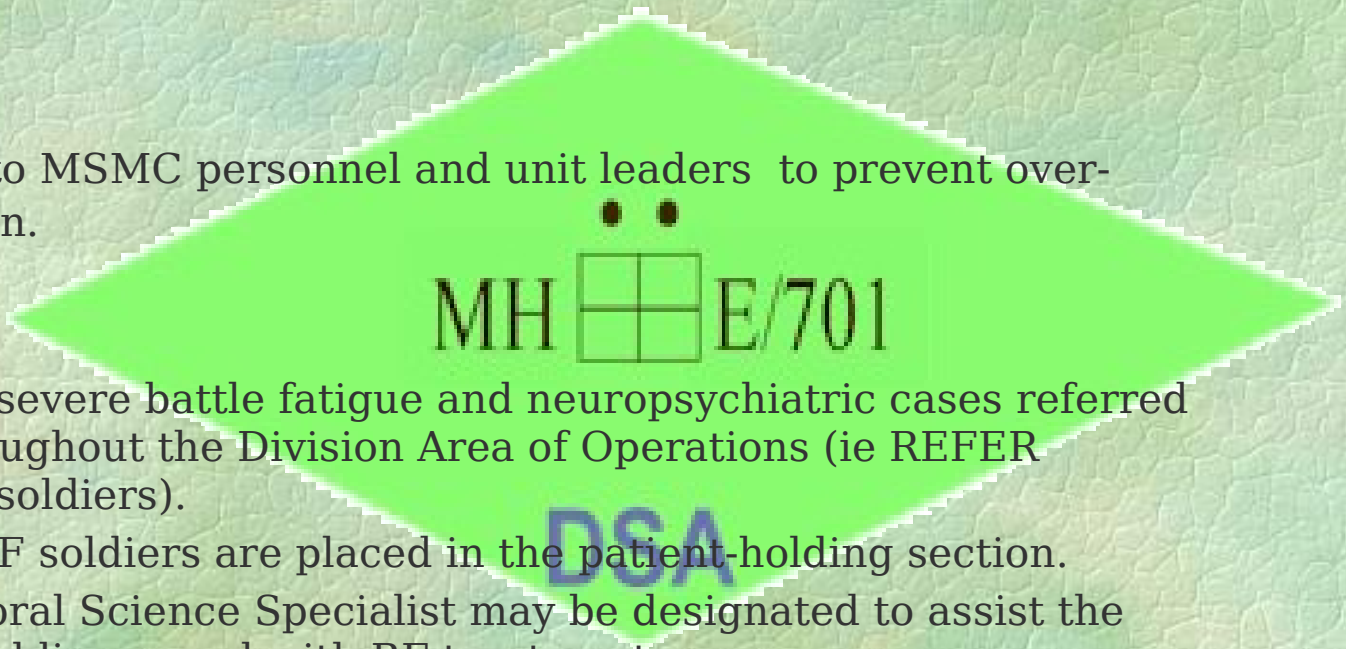
- Consults
  - Provides command consultation activities.
- Guides
  - Advises the MSMC on CSC implementation.
- Trains
  - Trains unit-level and brigade level
    - Chaplains
    - Combat lifesavers
    - Unit leaders
    - Soldiers
  - Establishes and conducts unit preventative mental health programs.
- Monitors
  - Monitors unit cohesion, combat stress and morale.
  - Monitors location and status of Combat Support and Combat Service Support Units.



- The DSA CSC Coordinator's duties are similar to those of the Brigade CSC Team Coordinator. He works under the direct supervision of the Division Psychiatrist or the DMHS NCOIC.
- FM 8-51, 3-9

1 Duties of the DMHS in the DSA

- Consult
  - Consult to MSMC personnel and unit leaders to prevent over-evacuation.
- Treats
  - Evaluate severe battle fatigue and neuropsychiatric cases referred from throughout the Division Area of Operations (ie REFER category soldiers).
  - NP and BF soldiers are placed in the patient-holding section.
  - A Behavioral Science Specialist may be designated to assist the patient-holding squad with BF treatment.
  - Evacuation occurs only with the Division Psychiatrist's approval.
  - NP and BF cases that require longer than the holding policy are referred to corps-level restoration and reconditioning facilities.
  - FM 8-51, 3-8 & 9



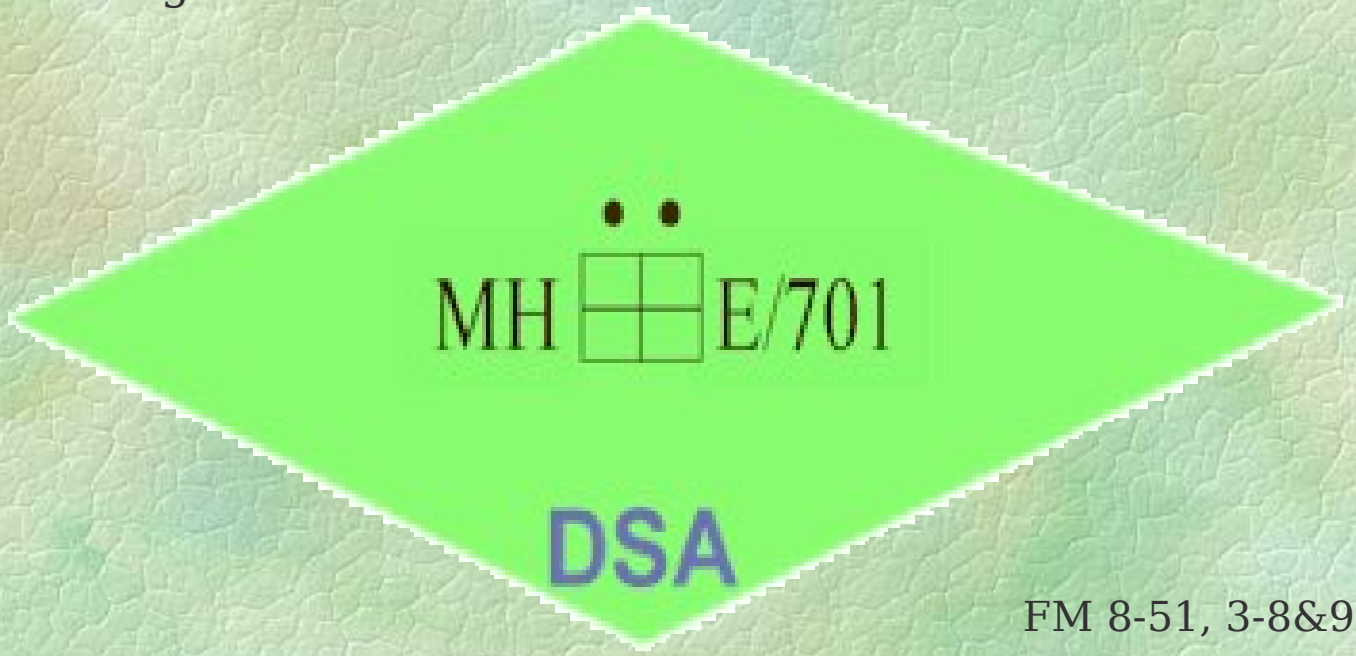
1 Duties of the DMHS in the DSA

- Trains
  - Instructs unit leaders, chaplains, medical personnel.
- Communicates
  - Maintains close contact with Brigade CSC Teams and their information regarding unit cohesion, morale, and CSC factors.
- Supervises
  - The Division Psychiatrist (and mental health officers left in the DSA) will oversee supervision of NP and BF soldiers in the patient-holding section.

FM 8-51, 3-8&9

1 Duties of the DMHS in the DSA

- Coordinates
  - Coordinates with the Division Assistant Chief of Staff (G1) to reintegrate recovered BF soldiers back into their units.

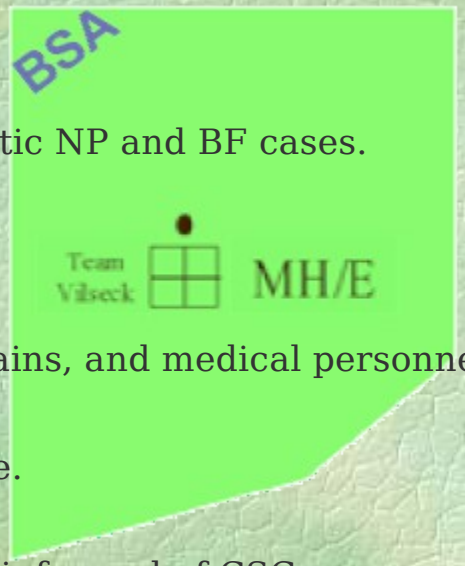


FM 8-51, 3-8&9

Brigade CSC Team in the Brigade Support Area

Duties of the Brigade CSC Team Leader

- Consults
  - Oversees command consultation activities.
- Treats
  - Provides direct evaluation/treatment in problematic NP and BF cases.
- Guides
  - Advises the FSMC on CSC implementation.
- Trains
  - Trains unit-level and brigade level leaders, chaplains, and medical personnel.
- Monitors
  - Monitors unit cohesion, combat stress and morale.
- Communicates
  - Keeps Division Psychiatrist and Brigade Surgeon informed of CSC developments.
- Supervision
  - Provides supervision for NP and BF cases.
  - Directly supervises DMHS personnel in the BSA.
  - Oversees counseling by CSC coordinator.



FM 8-51, 3-4&5

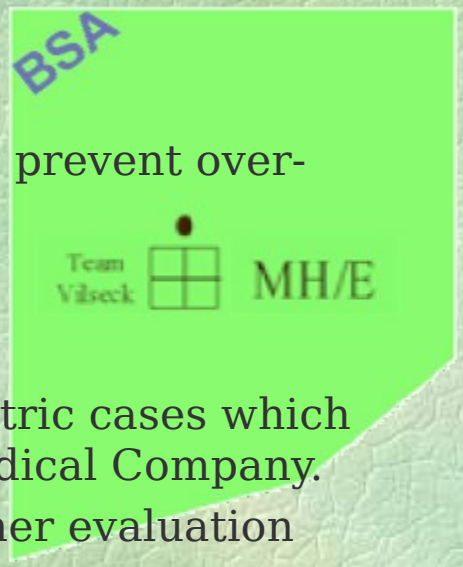
Duties of the Brigade CSC Team Coordinator

- Consults
  - Provides command consultation activities.
- Guides
  - Advises the FSMC on CSC implementation.
- Trains
  - Trains unit-level and brigade level
    - Chaplains
    - Combat lifesavers
    - Unit leaders
    - Soldiers
  - Establishes and conducts unit preventative mental health programs.
- Monitors
  - Monitors unit cohesion, combat stress and morale.

FM 8-51, 3-3&4

Duties of the Brigade CSC Team

- Consult
  - Consult to FSMC personnel and unit leaders to prevent over-evacuation.
- Treats
  - Evaluate severe battle fatigue and neuropsychiatric cases which cannot be managed by the Forward Support Medical Company.
  - Severe cases may be sent to the MSMC for further evaluation by the Division Psychiatrist.
  - Evacuation out of the Division requires approval from the Division Psychiatrist.



FM 8-51, 3-3 thru 6

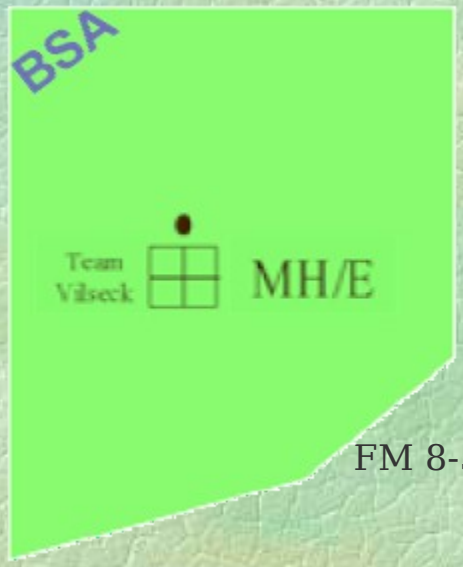
Duties of the Brigade CSC Team

- Monitors
  - Visits supported units regularly within the BSA.
  - Moves forward for consultation to supported maneuver battalions.
  - Deploys forward to ambulance exchange points (AXPs), battalion aid stations, and combat trains when possible during combat.
  - Keeps aware of the tactical situation.
  - Monitors/establishes trust between the unit and CSC Team.
  - Develops familiarity with the unit's operation, mission and tasks.
  - Monitors progress of REST and DUTY category BF soldiers (more details to follow).

FM 8-51, 3-3 thru 6

Duties of the Brigade CSC Team

- Communicates
  - Informs the Brigade Surgeons and Division Psychiatrist about CSC matters.
  - Requests reinforcements through Division Psychiatrist when resources are overwhelmed.
  - Keeps the FSMC informed about its whereabouts by radio or land lines.
    - Arrival
    - Departure
    - Next location to be visited



FM 8-51, 3-3 thru 6

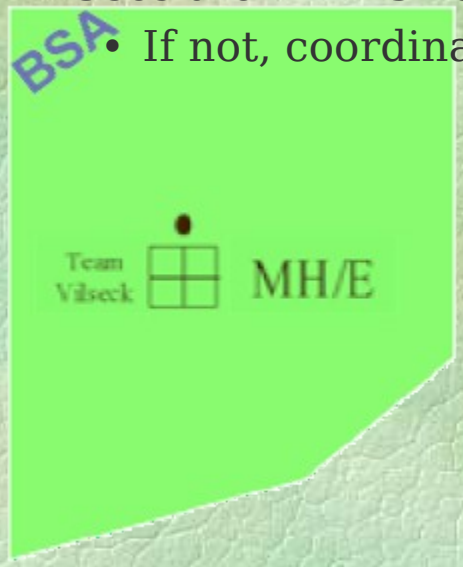
Duties of the Brigade CSC Team

- Guides
  - Assists the Brigade Surgeons with planning and projecting requirements
    - Stress casualty prevention
    - Reconstitution support
  - Guides patient-holding wardmaster (at the FSMC) regarding the patient-holding squad personn

FM 8-51, 3-3 thru 6

Duties of the Brigade CSC Team

- Coordinates
  - Coordinates RTD process for recovered BF casualties.
  - Facilitates postcombat stress debriefings at small units.
  - Facilitates treatment of BF REST category cases in the battalion field trains (more to follow on BF categories).
  - Uses the DMHS vehicle for transportation (when available)
  - If not, coordinates other means of transportation.



FM 8-51, 3-3 thru 6

Division Setup